

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Digital Repository

Volume 12

Number 2 *The Iowa Homemaker* vol.12, no.2

Article 8

1932

She'll Even Tend Rats...

Gertrude Hendriks

Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker>



Part of the [Home Economics Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hendriks, Gertrude (1932) "She'll Even Tend Rats...," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 12 : No. 2 , Article 8.

Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol12/iss2/8>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.

She'll Even Tend Rats . . .

By Gertrude Hendriks

To Keep Herself in School

TENDING babies, collecting shoes for repair, acting as librarians, doing housework, serving as laboratory assistants—these are a few of the means by which many Iowa State College co-eds are helping put themselves through school.

There are, says Miss Frances Sims, personnel director, many college women who are earning all of their expenses, some who are earning practically all, and some who are earning a large part. A survey made during winter quarter showed that 74 of these girls worked in private homes, preparing and serving meals, doing housework and other odd jobs in exchange for their room and board. One hundred fifty-nine others were saving money on their board by doing their share of keeping the cooperative dormitories in order and preparing and serving meals to the girls in their own halls.

"It is better for a girl who has to finance her way through school to earn and save money before entering," Miss Sims says, "for after all, the facilities and opportunities for working here on the campus and in Ames are limited." She adds, "Since this is a state institution, we try to give Iowa girls the first call when new chances of work are offered."

And what do these working girls really do? It would be impossible to tell of each one's duties, but here's what some do.

WHETHER buzzing for boy friends from the dormitory switchboard or calling serious minded engineering professors, the P. B. X. board girls have an opportunity to judge the man by the voice, whether it is deep or high pitched, gruff or sweet. Other co-eds put in time at the dormitory office desk answering calls and questions.

But here's a different and interesting way to earn partial expenses, though it would not appeal to every girl. Some college women act as laboratory technicians in the "rat lab" in Home Economics Hall. From washing equipment and food receptacles to cleaning the cages, it all gives a chance to see little white rats thrive and grow or curl up and pathetically die.

When a gust of wind blows in the room and slaps over a prized piece of pottery, it blows around some work for the girl who does china mending and makes the broken like new. And some girls put musical talent to work by providing music for physical education classes.

One co-ed, satisfying that desire to handle real money, works in a bank. Still

others clerk, select the most appropriate clothes for the individual, or sell cosmetics and drug supplies.

Agencies for cleaning, laundry and repair companies are taken over by some. Here there is full opportunity to show ability in attracting and keeping business as well as collecting money.

Over in the textile lab there are samples to be cut and materials to be put in readiness for classes. Co-eds snip out two-inch squares for samples and tear and cut materials for sewing problems. Illustrated material in the art lab must be kept in order. And co-eds help here, too.

Green

The dawn was apple-green,
The sky was green wine held up in
the sun,
The moon was a golden petal be-
tween.

She opened her eyes, and green
They shone, clear cut like flowers
undone
For the first time, now for the first
time seen.

—D. H. Lawrence.

Preparing and serving dinners for faculty members and their families is done by some. Still others assume additional household duties in working for their room and board. Washing on Monday, ironing on Tuesday, cleaning Wednesday and baking Saturday means employment for many girls who work at different times in private homes. Making beds in the dormitories during short courses and other times when visitors are on the campus gives a chance to apply the principles of bed making, learned from the hygiene classes.

Helping in the Institutional Tea Room when classes are too small to do the work required in a luncheon preparation or assisting with special parties provides work for others.

CARING for children—playing with them, telling bed-time stories, and just being on hand when they awaken and want "a dwink ob wafer," attracts those particularly interested in children. Between quarters Home Management babies must be cared for, so girls who are staying on the campus during the vacation period give the babies scheduled care, keeping their regularity perfect.

Opening magazines, keeping them

sorted and in place, is the job of some co-eds in many of the departments. Keeping presentable the technical journalism reading room in Agricultural Annex is a duty of another.

Arranging the "set ups"—or in home economics language, the "cover"—is the job of some who set tables in the dormitory dining rooms, Memorial Union Oak-room and restaurants. Each dormitory dining room has a desk girl, too—a student who directs and watches the dining room, accepts board payment and checks out milk bottles. Later, if you have a weakness for forgetting, it is her duty to remind you that your bottle is still out.

Serving food, arranging it appetizingly on the dinner plate, is done by girls at Memorial Union. Others wait tables there, taking orders and giving service. In some organized houses members act as stewardesses, arranging meals with a balanced diet, doing the marketing, and really putting "Science with Practice" into effect.

SEWING machines get out of kilter when used by several scores of girls in a dormitory or house. Another mechanically minded college girl takes the kinks out of the tension adjustment and gets the machine working again. And all those buzzing machines in sewing labs—how they'd squeak if they didn't have a regular swallow of oil. But they get it from some pitying attendant, who agrees that they need oil as much as children require bottled sunshine.

Quarter grades must be copied, class cards and schedules must be made out, and other things done before registration. Co-eds are kept busy again. Then those long lines on registration day must be cared for and there are many girls who sit behind the long tables checking registration cards, giving out schedules and grade sheets, while still others direct the milling mob. Then there's the click, clack of many typewriters, the hum of dictaphones—it's the office and clerical work which takes more than a score of girls.

Co-eds aren't the only ones who wear holes or start runners in silk hosiery. Faculty women, as well as all other women, suffer alike. So the girl, neat and quick with the needle, patches them or weaves new threads in damaged heels. Linens must be kept mended, too. Girls who don't prick their fingers till raw weave threads in the worn places. Still others who are clever with the scissors, pins and needle change yard material to lovely, wearable fashions for faculty, chaperons and fellow students, and could call them fashions "Direct from Ames."

(Continued on page 15)

She'll Even Tend Rats

(Continued from page 5)

A companion, someone to read aloud in a comforting voice, to "chauffeur" about and assist in entertaining, is the role one girl plays.

Turning toward the publishing field, some speedy typists turn out volumes of a thesis or a "Voc. Ed. Book." Some girls put their literary and journalistic talents together and crank out stories for publication, then sell them for so much "per."

The student who grasps "chem" rapidly easily tutors her friends in trouble-some courses.

Being a "hort" major is interesting, but working in the College Greenhouse is a treat. Several girls do greenhouse work, cutting, repotting, propagating and other truly greenhouse work. Girls who are technicians at the hospital do various technical things, including microscopic and red and white hemoglobin blood counts. One of them assists the dietitian in the diet problems and needs of patients.

Yes, Betty Co-ed often does work helping to squeeze in the pennies for her education—but even so, according to Miss Sims, her grades are quite often better than those of her friend who doesn't need to work all of her way.

They Don't Want Beef

(Continued from page 3)

the Union kitchen. Besides the full-time helpers, which are, of course, not college students, about twenty-five college girls and thirty men work at the Union regularly for their meals. In addition to this number there are from thirty to fifty girls listed for serving special parties. And the Union abounds in special parties. During February and March there were one hundred fifty of them, ranging in size from fifteen to five hundred persons.

Undoubtedly you have friends who are working in "special problems" at the Union, and you have wondered vaguely what these problems are all about. A three-hour special problem, consisting of two three-hour labs and one lecture a week, is required of every institutional major. These girls do managerial work, but have the actual experience of working in the kitchen with the cooks, on party service, at the soda fountain, in the Oak Room serving kitchen, as Oak Room hostess, on the cafeteria counter, and in the office. This quarter's class includes eleven girls.

Miss Anderson, who manages the food service, is assisted by an institutional graduate, and by a senior in institutional management who works full time and also carries three hours of college work.

To The Woods!

(Continued from page 7)

enjoyable. Certain families develop a picnic complex and by using this plan they are able to leave for the site within ten minutes after a picnic suggestion has been voiced. Impromptu picnics are indeed fun! Family members are more apt to join you in the preparation of the lunch if this method is employed.

I have heard men forcibly express ideas on picnics; they agree that hot foods do belong in the picnic lunch. Here we approach the fascinating subject of campfire cookery. In the way of equipment, a coffee pot, a steel frying pan and a large kettle will suffice for food containers, while the grate from the oven or one of these neat folding grills will be useful for holding the cooking utensils over the coals. Green logs placed near together or stones built up on top of each other in two walls will form the firebox. After the fire is going well, the grate or iron bars can be laid across on which to put the pots. In using the grills, the logs and stones are not necessary, but do prove handy for holding the fire in bounds.

Escalloped dishes are easily warmed up; still better, if the dish has just been

O'NEILS VELVET ICE CREAM

for
flavor, richness
and fine texture

CALL
O'NEIL DAIRY CO.
PHONE 62

WEAR BRANNBERG & ALM SHOES

this spring
FOR STYLE AND
ECONOMY TOO
NOT HOW CHEAP
BUT HOW GOOD

TENNIS RACKETS Balls and Restringing STUDENT SUPPLY STORE

ACROSS FROM CAMPUS

Reference Books Place Your Special Orders Early College Book Store on the campus